Board of Education Presentation
Continuity of Instruction Team
(Reopening Plan Proposal)
August 25, 2021
Key Takeaways

- Students benefit from in-person learning - returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority
- Voluntary vaccinations
- Universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- Screening testing, ventilation, and handwashing, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection
- 3 ft social distancing, when possible
- Referral to their healthcare provider for testing and care when sick.
- Layered prevention strategies
- Monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, and surveillance testing
All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).

**Reasons for universal masking recommendations**
- The AAP recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:
  - not eligible for vaccination
  - protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission
    - lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers and staff
  - potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated
  - possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
  - continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults
Our layered risk-mitigation strategy will continue allow the District to bring students back for 100% in-person attendance everyday (No remote option).
To clarify, school districts may not require parent/guardian consent for COVID-19 testing or vaccination of students in order for the students to participate in in-person learning or other school activities, unless local health authorities direct schools otherwise.
We are committed to a thoughtful, safe, and collaborative approach to opening our schools for 2021-2022 and will continue to monitor the ever changing COVID-19 situation.
1. The overall health and safety of our school community
2. A return to five days a week in-person instruction for all students
3. Layered prevention efforts to protect, students, staff, and visitors to our schools - offering voluntary testing and vaccination opportunities, when possible
Established layered safety and health mitigation strategies that were employed last school year will continue; these include:

- ✓ Masks will be required for all when inside District facilities or on buses
- ✓ Completion of Daily COVID Attestation
- ✓ Distancing
- ✓ Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- ✓ Cleaning and sanitizing procedures
What we know...

While we are awaiting further guidance from Governor Hochul, other than statements made yesterday, we do not have written guidance.

Here is what we know and have shared:

- School based data is encouraging and continues to show that transmission is not occurring in schools,
- Aerosol transmission of younger children in states that have the 3-foot rule is small (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Access to vaccines for teachers and staff
- Monitoring regional and local infection rate
- Regional and CDC data that shows how effective masks are when compliance is excellent
- Risk mitigation protocols are working effectively – Masks, HVAC, quarantine process
- Information gathering – including regional partners and professional associations, legal, insurance and medical.
- Westchester County’s DoH will issue written guidance soon.
- On Tuesday (08/10/2021), Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced support for our universal masking, vaccination availability, and saliva-based PCR testing.
Future Planning

Weekly COVID PCR Saliva Testing

➢ WCDH will be entering into contracts with three vendors/labs
➢ Westchester County will pair the EUFSD to a vendor, considering:
  ○ Proximity
  ○ Lab capacity
  ○ Previous relationships with vendors
COVID PCR Saliva Testing

While there are some operational differences depending on the vendor/lab, the same materials and services will be free to our district:

➢ Saliva-based PCR test kits
➢ Staff to coordinate sample collection
➢ Transport of specimens to lab
➢ Result notification system
➢ Each school will be required to appoint a primary liaison to coordinate testing activities with vendor partner
COVID PCR Saliva Testing

- SalivaClear™
- Samples can be collected at home or in school
- Pooled testing of 24 samples analyzed at Mirimus Lab in Brooklyn
  - Samples from positive pool receive reflex testing
- Results in 24 hours
- Has already worked with 3 Westchester School Districts
COVID coordinator consults and coordinates with vendor
- Vendor to be in school for testing events
- School schedules gateway testing day(s), time, and logistics plan
- Testing plan communicated to teachers, staff and parents
- Consent and registration process outlined and communicated to teachers, staff, and parents
- Could be through school or through vendor platform
- Parents, teachers, and staff register and provide consent using the established system

COVID PCR Saliva Testing
SAMPLE SCENARIO- WEEKLY 20% TESTING PLANNING

- EUFSD/school point person coordinates with vendor to determine weekly testing day and time
- Unique student number, etc. created/distributed
- Weekly sampling method communicated to parents, teachers, and staff
- Supply of test kits are delivered to school
- School works with vendor to ensure take home test kits are distributed appropriately and instructions/dates for return are clear
Vaccinations

- Fast, Easy, Free, and Nearby COVID-19 Vaccination - the federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Last year, the EUFSD partnered to offer vaccinations (possible date 10/09/2021)
- CDC: COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against severe disease and death from variants, including the Delta variant.
- CDC also offers: Population immunity makes it hard for a disease to spread from person to person. It even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to a vaccine.
- FDA just fully approved Pfizer-BioNTech for use (08/23/2021)
What the CDC is Still Learning

- How well the vaccines protect people with weakened immune systems, including people who take medicines that suppress the immune system
- How long COVID-19 vaccines protect people
- How many people have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before the population can be considered protected (population immunity)
- How effective the vaccines are against new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19
To get kids back in-person safely, schools should monitor

Community Transmission  Vaccination Coverage  Testing  Outbreaks

to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Questions

Let's plan together for our future!